

Message Text

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62

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00 COA-02 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 INR-10 IO-15 L-03 NSF-04 NSC-10

NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01 SCI-06 SS-15 SPC-03 OIC-04 AF-10

ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 DRC-01 /193 W

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R 011233Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7810

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA POUCH

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT POUCH

UNCLAS KUWAIT 3580

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN ETRN KU XF

SUBJ: REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON GULF POLLUTION

REF: A) KUWAIT 0416; B) KUWAIT 0274; C) KUWAIT A-151, NOV 1, 72

SUMMARY: GOK NOW PLANNING HOLD REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON GULF POLLUTION HERE JAN 19-24, 1974 AND ACCORDING GOK OFFICIALS ALL RIPARIAN STATES PLANNING ATTEND. USG PRESENCE AS OBSERVER WELCOMED BY GOK BUT USG SHOULD INITIATE REQUEST. GOK ALSO INTERESTED IN POSSIBLE ROLE OF NGOS AND HAVE REQUESTED INFORMATION ABOUT NGO PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES. END SUMMARY

1. EMBOFFS DISCUSSED PREPARATIONS FOR CONFERENCE ON GULF POLLUTION WITH KUWAIT PLANNING BOARD OFFICIALS. CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN KUWAIT JAN 19-24, 1974. FYI GOK ORIGINALLY INTENDED HOLD UNCLASSIFIED

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CONFERENCE NOV THIS YEAR, BUT THEY FINDING THEY NEED MORE TIME

FOR PREPARATION END FYI. KUWAITIS HAVE SET UP SECRETARIAT HEADED BY SAMI AL-BADR TO COORDINATE PREPARATIONS FOR CONFERENCE. IT IS HOPED THAT THIS GROUP WILL EVOLVE INTO PERMANENT REGIONAL SECRETARIAT IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS OF JANUARY CONFERENCE. PRESUMABLY, PERMANENT SECRETARY GENERAL WILL BE CHOSEN AT CONFERENCE.

2. EMBOFF INQUIRED WHETHER USG WILL BE INVITED TO ATTEND AS OBSERVER, AS HAD BEEN INDICATED PREVIOUSLY. GOK OFFICIALS SAID THEY WOULD WELCOME USG'S ATTENDANCE IN LIGHT OUR INTEREST IN SUBJECT AND BECAUSE OF ASSISTANCE WE HAVE PROVIDED. GOK HAD INTENDED MAKE CONFERENCE OPEN TO ANY INTERESTED PARTY AND THEY INTENDED MAKE A GENERAL INVITATION THROUGH UN. ORGANIZERS FEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THERE MAY BE MORE COUNTRIES WISHING TO SEND OBSERVERS THAN GOK COULD HOPE TO HANDLE EFFICIENTLY. THEREFORE, THEY HAVE ADVISED US THAT IF USG WISHES ATTEND AS OBSERVER, IT MAY DO SO, BUT IT SHOULD INITIATE OBSERVER REQUEST WHICH WOULD BE SENT TO MR AL-BADR AT KUWAIT PLANNING BOARD.

3. GOK OFFICIALS REITERATED THAT PURPOSE OF CONFERENCE IS TO ENCOURAGE REGIONAL COOPERATION TO CURTAIL ASPECTS OF MARINE POLLUTION IN GULF, AND TO PRESERVE ITS NATURAL RESOURCES. THEY CLAIM ALL RIPARIAN STATES INTEND PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE. FYI IRANIAN AMBASSADOR RECENTLY TOLD EMBOFF THAT IRAN WAS VERY MUCH IN FAVOR OF CONFERENCE AND FULLY SUPPORTED KUWAIT IN ITS INITIATIVE END FYI.

4. KUWAITIS ASKED IF EMBASSY COULD PROVIDE ANY ADVICE OR INFORMATION REGARDING PARTICIPATION IN THE SUBJECT CONFERENCE BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGO). GOK OFFICIALS WOULD WELCOME INFORMATION REGARDING PAST PRACTICES OR OTHER IDEAS REGARDING NGO INVOLVEMENT IN A CONFERENCE OF THIS NATURE.

5. COMMENT: GOK METHODICALLY MOVING FORWARD WITH PREPARATION OF GULF POLLUTION CONFERENCE. USG PRESENCE WOULD BE WELCOME BUT IF WE WISH HAVE OBSERVER STATUS WE SHALL HAVE TO TAKE INITIATIVE.

POSSIBLE THAT UN, UK, AND JAPAN WILL ALSO HAVE OBSERVERS, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT DISCUSSED MATTER WITH LOCAL EMBASSIES. EMBASSY BELIEVES US WOULD BENEFIT BY ATTENDING CONFERENCE AS OBSERVER. END COMMENT
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6. ACTION REQUESTED (A) DEPARTMENT REQUESTED ADVISE EMBASSY REGARDING USG INTEREST IN ATTENDING CONFERENCE AS OBSERVER AND LIKELY MAKEUP OF USDEL (B) DEPT ALSO REQUESTED PROVIDE INFO AND IDEAS REGARDING NGO ROLE IN CONFERENCE THAT CAN BE PASSED ON TO GOK.
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